

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. – 46. (Cancelled)

47. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for injecting steam from a wellbore into a geological formation, the apparatus comprising:

a flow path between a well surface and the formation, the flow path including at least one nozzle, the at least one nozzle including a throat portion and a diffuser portion, whereby the steam will flow through the nozzle at a critical flow rate, wherein the critical flow rate is a controlled flow rate and the flow path includes a string of tubulars extending from the well surface to the formation, the at least one nozzle located in the string of tubulars, proximate the formation; and

at least one opening formed along the string of tubulars proximate the formation, the at least one nozzle connected to the at least one opening, wherein the at least one opening includes an enlarged area disposed circumferentially around the string of tubulars.

48. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein a portion of the string of tubulars within the enlarged area has apertures disposed therein which are circumferentially distributed around the string of tubulars.

49. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein the number of apertures in the tubular string is variable and selectable.

50. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, further including an intermediate sleeve member disposable in the tubular string adjacent the apertures in the wall, the intermediate sleeve member having circumferentially distributed apertures alignable with the apertures in the wall.

51. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the apertures in the sleeve are constructed and arranged to permit steam to pass from the tubing to the pocket while maintaining a predetermined ratio of water and vapor.
52. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein at least two enlarged areas are disposed along the tubular string.
53. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 52, wherein an annular area is between each enlarged area and an adjacent formation is isolated with a packing member.
54. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein the nozzle is remotely removable.
55. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein the nozzle is remotely insertable.
56. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein the apparatus injects steam from a lateral wellbore into the formation.
57. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein the flow path further includes a fluid path formed in a wall of a casing lining the wellbore, the fluid path formed adjacent the formation.
58. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 57, wherein the fluid path formed in the casing includes perforations.
59. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for injecting steam from a wellbore into a geological formation, the apparatus comprising:
a flow path between a well surface and the formation, the flow path including at least one nozzle, the at least one nozzle including a throat portion and a diffuser portion,

whereby the steam will flow through the nozzle at a critical flow rate, wherein the critical flow rate is a controlled flow rate and the flow path includes a string of tubulars extending from the well surface to the formation, the at least one nozzle located in the string of tubulars, proximate the formation;

at least one opening formed along the string of tubulars proximate the formation, the at least one nozzle connected to the at least one opening, wherein the at least one opening includes a pocket;

a wall between an interior of the tubing and the at least one opening, the wall having at least one aperture formed therein, wherein the number of apertures in the wall between the tubing and the pocket is variable and selectable.

60. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 59, further including an intermediate sleeve member disposable in the tubular string adjacent the apertures in the wall, the intermediate sleeve member having apertures alignable with the apertures in the wall.

61. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the steam is saturated steam.

62. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the steam includes a component of water and a component of vapor.

63. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the apertures in the sleeve are constructed and arranged to permit steam to pass from the tubing to the pocket while maintaining a predetermined ratio of water and vapor.

64. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 63, wherein the apertures in the wall between the tubing and the pocket are substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the tubing.

65. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the flow of fluid through the nozzle is approximately parallel to the longitudinal axis of the tubing.

66. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for injecting steam into a lateral wellbore comprising:

- a tubular string;

- at least one pocket formed circumferentially around the tubular string;

- at least one nozzle disposed on the tubular string, the at least one nozzle including a throat portion and a diffuser portion;

- a plurality of apertures disposed circumferentially around the tubular string to provide fluid communication between an inner diameter of the tubular string and the at least one pocket; and

- at least one sleeve member disposable in the tubular string adjacent the plurality of apertures, wherein the at least one sleeve member comprises a plurality of apertures disposed circumferentially therearound.

67. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 66, wherein the plurality of apertures in the at least one sleeve member are alignable with the plurality of apertures in the tubular string to permit steam to flow from the tubular string to the at least one pocket to maintain a predetermined ratio of water and vapor injected into a geological formation through each of at least two nozzles.

68. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 66, further comprising at least one obstructing member disposed on the tubular string across from the at least one nozzle.

69. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 68, wherein the at least one obstructing member prevents a portion of the steam from flowing in a direction in which the steam is dispensed from the at least one nozzle.

70. – 78. (Cancelled)